

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2009

Legislative Fiscal Note

**BILL NUMBER:** Senate Bill 66 (First Edition)

**SHORT TITLE:** Require Arts Educ. Credit for Graduation.

**SPONSOR(S):** Senator Dorsett

<b>FISCAL IMPACT</b>					
	<b>Yes ( )</b>	<b>No ( X )</b>	<b>No Estimate Available ( )</b>		
	<b><u>FY 2009-10</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2010-11</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2011-12</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2012-13</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2013-14</u></b>
<b>REVENUES:</b>					
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>None</b>				
<b>POSITIONS</b> <b>(cumulative):</b>					
<b>PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &amp; PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:</b> Department of Public Instruction, North Carolina Local Education Agencies (LEAs)					
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> When It Becomes Law					

**BILL SUMMARY:** Directs the State Board of Education to modify the State high school graduation requirements to include one required credit in arts education. The requirement will take effect for those students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2009.

**ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:** Senate Bill 66v1 would add a requirement to the existing North Carolina Standard Course of Study for students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in school year 2009-10. The requirements of this Future-Ready Core will be:

- English (4 Credits)
- Mathematics (4 Credits)
- Science (3 Credits)
- Social Studies (3 Credits)
- Second Language (not required for graduation but required for UNC minimum application requirements)

- Computer Skills (not required for graduation but student must demonstrate proficiency on State test)
- Health and Physical Education (1 Credit)
- Electives or Other Requirements (6 Credits), which includes:
  - 2 Elective credits of any combination from either:
    - Career and Technical Education (CTE)
    - Arts Education
    - Second Languages
  - 4 Elective credits strongly recommended (a four course concentration) from one of the following:
    - Career and Technical Education
    - JROTC
    - Arts Education (e.g. dance, music, theater arts, visual arts)
    - Any other subject area (e.g. mathematics, science, social studies, English)
- Total (21 Credits, not inclusive of local requirements)

The Future-Ready Core will apply to all students except those in the Occupational Course of Study, which has a stronger focus on CTE credits as well as 6 required Occupational Preparation credits. While a required arts education credit would add an additional required credit, it would not require an overall expansion in the amount of classes LEAs would be required to provide. Rather, the mandatory arts credit would change the distribution of elective class offerings.

The State Board of Education provides funding to LEAs to support the current operations of public schools and support the requirements of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Funds are allocated in two primary ways:

- 1) Guaranteed positions, which are fully funded by the State based on the experience and unique qualifications of the employee filling that position, and,
- 2) Dollar allotments, which provide funding to be used for specific purposes.

Guaranteed teaching positions are allocated to LEAs based on the number of students in specific grade spans and are not allocated with respect to particular subject area. Most dollar allotment funding may also be used to hire teachers, though this type of usage is governed by the rules of the specific allotment.

8 LEAs (Asheville City, Burke County, Columbus County, Cumberland County, Davie County, Newton-Conover City, Pitt County, and Rowan-Salisbury Schools) have already added an arts education credit as a local requirement for graduation. None of these LEAs received additional State funding for this purpose, and all 8 LEAs implemented the requirement within existing resource levels.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) may need to provide additional technical assistance to LEAs implementing this requirement for the first time, but this analysis assumes such assistance can be provided within existing staffing and funding levels for the Department. Most LEAs currently provide arts education offerings to their high school students, as DPI estimates 60-75% of high school students take at least one arts education class during the typical four years in

attendance. As such, potential LEA technical assistance needs are unlikely to require additional DPI staffing or funding.

**SOURCES OF DATA:** Department of Public Instruction

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** None

**FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION:** (919) 733-4910

**PREPARED BY:** Brian Matteson

**APPROVED BY:**

Bob Weiss  
on behalf of Marilyn Chism, Director  
Fiscal Research Division

**DATE:** April 7, 2009



**Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices**